



UNDP OSLO GOVERNANCE CENTRE

2020 Annual Report



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Year In Review – 2020

With a decline in human development for the first time in 30 years amidst deepening inequalities, COVID-19 is disproportionately affecting different population groups and undermining progress in achieving sustainable development. While the pandemic represents its own crisis of governance, it has exposed deeper challenges that go to the very heart of the state-society relationship – shedding light on growing inequality, the perils of the mounting climate crisis, the fragility of our governance systems, the limits of our economic models, the exponential rise of threats to human rights, and challenges and opportunities associated with technological advances.

In light of the global developments, the Oslo Governance Centre (OGC) continued its work programme in 2020 as an applied research and policy hub to advance dialogue and knowledge on inclusive governance, while also reorienting its agenda to respond to issues that have emerged or become amplified because of the pandemic. Despite internal changes in staff and leadership¹ in 2020, OGC was able to pivot from its planned areas of work to respond to such emerging demand, for example by supporting the Praia group to develop the first global guidance on governance statistics during Covid-19, as well as by taking the lead for UNDP's global work responding to information pollution.

OGC works with partners to make progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by providing a bridge between research, policy, and practice. Our work with policy experts, researchers, government officials, and NGOs on issues of governance and sustaining peace grew over the last year, as did close collaboration within UNDP, not the least through the Regional Hubs.

In 2020, the Centre also made special efforts at outreach and creating visibility. These efforts were aimed at better communicating the work of the

Centre but more importantly enabling its audience access to the research and knowledge work of OGC. Like many others, OGC has also taken advantage of the potential of 'virtual space' to bring people together across countries and regions, utilizing new platforms and modalities, which will change the way OGC works in the long run. While strong communications has been a recurrent theme through the year, a study was commissioned to assess current work and develop a forward-looking communication and advocacy strategy for the Centre.

The OGC's increased visibility led to:

- ▮ Staff being increasingly invited to speak at substantive events / seminars.
- ▮ Being sought as an entity by other institutions for research partnerships and collaborations.
- ▮ Increased recognition as a leading centre of applied research and thought leadership on governance.

As the current OGC project ends in 2021, the process towards defining its future started in 2020 by developing a roadmap towards shaping the role of the Centre from 2022 and onwards. In order to reinforce the technical inputs to the process of developing the next Strategic Plan 2022-25, UNDP also initiated a global consultation process with its partners. This 'Reimagining Governance' process will inform the next UNDP Strategic Plan and the future governance offer, and also contribute to the discussions on the future of OGC. The Centre has been actively contributing to this process by convening a donor consultation and a Nordic Round Table with civil society, academia, and think tanks, as well as by producing analytical work such as a horizon scanning of global governance trends.

We remain grateful for the continued support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Norway, and the active engagement of our many partners.

¹ Changes in OGC included vacancies at the top: the Director and the two senior Advisors who were managing the SDG 16 and governance of inclusion portfolios.

Snapshot of UNDP OGC visibility 2020

As Host / co-host: virtual events across OGC thematic areas. Guidance and peer-to-peer exchange on *information pollution* through 6 webinars, 1 virtual roundtable and an online eConsultation; *SDG16* virtual events through 14 webinars / virtual events; and one *governance* and *climate security* webinar.

As Speakers invited: to external events to articulate and clarify complex concepts, introduce tools and methodologies as well as to share experiences and best practices. While OGC staff spoke at numerous informal events, major formal speaking engagements numbered about 25.

Knowledge products (downloads in 2020)

- | [UNDP's Engagement with the Media for Governance, Sustainable Development and Peace](#) (3,200+)
- | [Is Africa Measuring Up to its Goal 16 Commitments? The Road to the HLPF and Beyond](#) (300+)
- | [Enabling the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SDG 16+: Anchoring peace, justice and inclusion](#) (1229)
- | [Information Pollution Guidance Note: Responding to COVID-19 Information Pollution](#) (464)
- | [Information Pollution Webinar Series Summary](#) (19)
- | [Governance Statistics in the COVID-19 Era](#) (114 from SDG16 Hub)
- | [SDG16 Info Digest \(so far in 2020\): Editions 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16](#) (279)
- | [10 Issue briefs: PDA Fellowship Cohort IV on Climate-Related Security and Sustaining Peace](#) (185 total)

Key Blogs / Op – Eds

OGC staff penned several Op-Eds and Blogs: How the [Praia handbook on governance statistics](#) was a milestone in achieving international standards in governance statistics, [how improved data assists in the prevention and management of conflicts](#), [how governance statistics can be harnessed in COVID-19 times](#), as well as [UNDP's work on strengthening information integrity](#) and Uruguay's Information Integrity COVID-19 Initiatives.

New followers: 2,313
Increase: 252.78%



Activity:

Tweets: 338

Likes: 2,467

Retweets: 3,064

Impressions: 766,500

Launched: Dec 2019

Total followers: 229

Posts: 25



2019–2020

undp.org/oslocentre
had **2,459** link clicks
and **3,366** downloads,
and **23,107** visitors



New followers: 308
Increase: 33.66%



Activity:

Posts: 65

Total reach: 4,023

**Avg reach per post:
61.89**

Information Integrity:

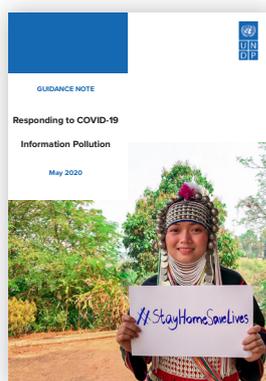
Immediate and long-term response

Highlights:

- Produced a [Guidance Note](#) providing a framework for immediate interventions and long-term programmatic options to combat information pollution.
- Increased evidence-based communication responses to COVID-19 in Ukraine, Lebanon, Panama, and Venezuela, particularly for protecting vulnerable groups (women and returned refugees) through more effective outreach strategies.
- Co-hosted a joint global eConsultation on Information Integrity with UNESCO.
- 560+ practitioners trained on mis-information / dis-information via 6 part webinar series.

Information pollution has been a growing concern in recent years, as it impacts many of the core pillars of UNDP's mission, including electoral support, health, climate change, and peacebuilding. Indeed, 2020 revealed the alarming impact of false, misleading, and manipulated content on the global response to the pandemic. National lockdowns meant that disinformation reached a wider audience than ever before, eroding public trust in state institutions and news media, widening social divides, and destabilizing already fragile contexts. The pollution of the information ecosystem has been causing real physical and societal harm and posing a serious threat not only to immediate public health outcomes, but also to long-term prospects for advancing democracy, human rights, and social cohesion.

Country offices (COs) received multiple requests for support from government partners to address COVID-19 disinformation. As part of UNDP's [COVID-19 Integrated Response: Beyond Recovery Towards 2030](#) and in line with its mandate to promote informed and inclusive societies, OGC was solicited to help strengthen information integrity expertise within UNDP. Since then it has been leading the organization's global response to information pollution.



In May, OGC rapidly produced a [Guidance Note on Information Pollution](#) setting out policy and programmatic considerations and options for both immediate and long-term programme responses.

This document was intended to assist COs to develop new initiatives but also to adapt existing programming to specifically address information pollution.

To complement the guidance note, a series of six webinars were organized from March to July 2020. This series aimed to explore specific intervention areas in more depth and strengthen the capacity of UNDP staff and partners to address information pollution related to COVID-19 and other issues. A [summary report](#) was published highlighting key takeaways of each webinar and was shared in the monthly newsletter and on OGC's website. Interest was high, and over 560 UNDP staff participated in the webinars. This series was structured to promote cross-fertilization between UNDP country offices as well as to promote new thinking by showcasing the experiences of external experts. Specialists from BBC Media Action, International

Fact-Checking Network, Search for Common Ground, UNESCO, Alto Analytics, Internews, and national civil society organizations presented their approaches and innovations in addressing disinformation. These included using peacebuilding approaches to manage rumours, effectively monitoring disinformation patterns and trends, building the capacity of journalists, and developing multimedia communication campaigns on the risks of disinformation.

The feedback from the webinar series was very positive. 100% of respondents who attended one or more webinars found them to be “very useful” for their work and said they were inspired to consider including responses to information pollution in their current programming; 83% said they have already made or intended to make changes to their programming after attending the webinar(s).

Recognizing the need to design responses to information pollution based on evidence and an informed understanding of the context, in July OGC launched an internal call for proposals to support COs to conduct research on information pollution trends and patterns and on national information landscapes and to identify collective learning and best practice.

Submissions were received from 40 UNDP country offices from all five regions, and project proposals

were selected from **Samoa, Cambodia, Lebanon, Sierra Leone, Ukraine, Chile, and Panama / Venezuela** (joint project).

A total of 19 UNDP COs have been directly supported by OGC in developing and fine-tuning misinformation initiatives: **Honduras, Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, Venezuela, Panama, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Tunisia, Sudan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Cambodia, Belarus, and Kyrgyzstan.**

In order to capture learning and best practice across all grant recipients, OGC commissioned an independent consultant to document the successes, challenges, and lessons learned from project inception through the end of December 2020. This consolidated learning exercise will be distilled into a guidance document on best practice in disinformation monitoring and research so as to provide advice for others (internally and externally) who wish to conduct similar monitoring exercises. This will be published in the first quarter of 2021.

In December 2020, OGC hosted a virtual roundtable, [No Silver Bullet: Using data to develop context-sensitive solutions to disinformation](#). **Lebanon** and **Chile** COs presented their key preliminary findings, followed by a panel discussion with prominent policy makers, academics, and media experts.

Impacts of the Information Pollution Mapping Programme:

- | In **Ukraine**, the COVID-19 monitoring dashboard established with OGC support has identified 50 online influencers, now engaged in a COVID-19 communications campaign. The monitoring also helped identify reliable and trusted information sources for further communication responses.
- | In **Panama** and **Venezuela**, the research supported by the programme tracked online narratives about vulnerable groups (women and returned refugees) and has shared findings with organizations to improve their outreach strategies. In **Panama**, for example, it was identified that even though domestic violence was a frequently discussed issue, searches for support organizations were relatively low. UNDP was able to provide guidance to those organizations on how to raise their profile among women needing support.
- | In **Sierra Leone**, the capacity was strengthened of a longstanding local media coalition partner, Media Reform Coordinating Group (MRCG), which had never before conducted disinformation monitoring. MRCG now intends to continue monitoring disinformation and sharing data and analysis with its members.

“Keep sharing and presenting the information. It was very helpful! I am using portions for my own students to learn about Global Health and the challenges of Public Health – with appropriate citations for UNDP of course!”
– External Participant

Having spent several months meeting COs’ immediate needs in their information pollution responses, and engaging with various experts and specialists in the sector, OGC concluded that UNDP needed a coherent global response to information pollution.

In October 2020, OGC joined with UNESCO to launch a four-week [global online consultation](#) to capture current research and evidence of the impact and drivers of information pollution and to come up with effective responses to it. The consultation, which took place on the SparkBlue platform, saw contributions from civil society, academics, internet companies, the private sector, governments, and UN agencies. OGC made an effort to involve multiple external stakeholders in the planning and moderation of the event to ensure a wide reach and a diversity of perspectives. OGC was able to enlist moderators from the Overseas Development Institute, Internews, UNESCO, Search for Common Ground, and the Busara Centre (a think tank in Kenya). This consultation has been widely appreciated both inside and outside UNDP, and it provided subsequent opportunities to present and promote UNDP’s added value in the field of countering information pollution. In November, OGC presented the consultation’s findings to the EU (European External Affairs,

DevCo, and member state representatives) and to OECD’s governance network. The consultation was a foundational exercise for the development of UNDP’s strategic response to information pollution, which will be launched in early Q2, 2021, after further refinement.

In terms of systematizing its knowledge base, OGC created a [database of disinformation](#) resources, including organizations, research, knowledge hubs, webinars, and policy papers on information pollution. This is being shared with multiple COs who use the database to inform the design and implementation of their own responses and to identify potential partners. OGC was also able to connect the COs in **Chile, Pakistan, and Tunisia** with the International Fact-Checking Network for journalism training.

“I have been mesmerized over the last 1.5 hrs by the extremely relevant OGC roundtable on Context-sensitive Solutions to Disinformation. Joan Donovan, UNDP Chile (as well as UNDP Lebanon) made presentations that are extremely relevant to Kyrgyzstan.”
– UNDP participant

Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE): Strengthened Research

Highlights:

- Conducted applied research on current themes of relevance to PVE.
- Carried out ground work for PVE-related knowledge products: Podcast Series, Video, Research Library.

Violent extremism is a complex and diverse phenomenon that varies significantly depending on the context, time, and place. OGC has been working within UNDP and with partners to advance research and policy options for the prevention of violent extremism.

In 2020, OGC defined current research needs based on existing knowledge gaps, and was able to respond to these by producing several research policy pieces. Initiatives for outreach and communications were also launched to meet the demand expressed for PVE-related products so as to strengthen the prevention narrative and communicate UNDP's work on this topic.

OGC and the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) collaborated on a project on the assumptions underlying PVE by studying potential factors behind support for terrorism or violent extremism. By using global survey data from the World Values Survey 2020, the study attempts to learn more about those who may support violent extremism. It looks specifically at demographic factors, the role of religion, and the role of government and marginalization, and it dives into some unexplored factors as well. At the end of 2020, PRIO and OGC reviewed the first draft, with the final version to be launched at a joint event at the Oslo III conference in 2021.

The initial results suggest that:

- Justifying terrorism is related to whether a person justifies other forms of violence, including domestic violence.
- Having pride in one's nationality reduces the likelihood of justifying terrorism.
- The more religious someone identifies as, the less likely they are to justify terrorism.

Further, four in-depth policy briefs have been commissioned to raise awareness and develop advice, using a set of policy recommendations. These explore:

- The evidence for a relationship between climate security and violent extremism in Africa.*** Using four case studies, this research aims to provide a greater understanding of the potential interrelationship between climate change and violent extremism in Africa.
- How the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the ecosystem for violent extremism,*** with the aim of contributing to existing research and providing recommendations going forward.
- An examination of the links and interrelationships between violent extremism and misogyny.*** This research examines legal, political, and policy frameworks to contribute to PVE programming and policy recommendations.
- The links and interrelationships between ***the state, violent extremism, and violent supremacy groups and the impact on civil society and democratic foundations.***

OGC collaborated with UNDP's Regional Hubs to develop research to assist in creating an evidence base on emerging issues and to reinforce UNDP's position and approach on preventing violent extremism. The Regional Hubs have been at the core of the Centre's PVE work by contributing with inputs to research as well as disseminating findings and providing methodological and other support to various COs.

In this regard, OGC supported the development of a knowledge product on Violent Extremism and Human Rights in **Central Asia**, through technical and methodological support that brought together analysis with recommendations for UNDP to engage with stakeholders on this sensitive issue. This knowledge product has brought great value to the region, but stakeholders have refrained from publishing it online due to its sensitive nature.

“In 2020 to further explore interlinkages between climate security and violent extremism, the OGC supported the Africa Regional PVE Project with the production of a policy brief on Climate Security and Violent Extremism in Africa, which highlights examples and lessons learned of interventions, as well as outlines recommendations that can be made at both policy and programmatic levels to further inform UNDP's engagement in this domain.”

– UNDP Regional Hub Africa

Throughout 2020, OGC has been working on several communication and outreach products for the benefit of practitioners, including:

PVE research library: In order to generate greater efficiencies, OGC is bringing together all UNDP produced PVE resources onto a single online hub to strengthen knowledge management, while also serving as a valuable tool for practitioners and academics. The hub will go online in late May 2021.

PVE advocacy video: This showcases how UNDP works to prevent violent extremism and aims to portray how violent extremism is affecting local and global communities.

#UnseenExtreme five-episode podcast series on PVE: This dives into how violent extremism interacts with COVID-19, wildlife poaching, and the privatization of conflict, etc., with world-leading experts in the field.

All the above-mentioned initiatives will come to fruition in 2021 and lead up to the Oslo III conference scheduled for June 2021. Oslo III is expected to contribute to UNDP's overall position on PVE by highlighting its extensive field presence and its ability to bring diverse actors together, bridging these two to synthesize local information, knowledge, and evidence to inform future discussion on PVE.

During the year, OGC re-evaluated its work vis-à-vis COVID-19 but also strengthened OGC's role as a reliable entity and partner institution for others such as the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI), University of Oslo (UiO), and Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI).

Transitions and Sustaining Peace

One of the two pillars of OGC’s work is to advance research and policy options on governance in crisis and transition. In addition to the main themes of PVE and information integrity, within this pillar several knowledge products were completed in 2020, building on earlier work and partnerships.



In May, OGC published its joint work on [Implementing Peace Agreements: From inclusive processes to inclusive outcomes?](#), which had started a few years earlier with the Inclusive Peace & Transition Initiative (IPTI), Graduate Institute

in Geneva. This work provides insight on putting peace agreements into practice and shows that when peace agreements are inclusive, more people can take part in the process, which means greater public ownership, acceptance, transparency, and knowledge-sharing. In other words, the

more effectively that people are included in implementation, the more durable the peace. The report is being used, for example, to assist in peace processes in Sudan and South Sudan. This was followed by the publishing in July of the Issue Brief that consolidates the findings from the full report.

In 2020, OGC, working with the UNDP – UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) Joint Programme on conflict prevention and the Folke Bernadotte Academy, finalized 10 Issue Briefs on the topic of Climate-related Security Risks and Sustaining Peace as an outcome of the December 2019 Peace and Development Adviser (PDA) Fellowship Programme. In addition, the UN University (UNU) produced a climate-security policy brief drawing principally from the Fellowship Issue Briefs, looking across all the papers. More information is available [here](#).

Finally, OGC co-hosted a webinar on ‘**Why Climate Security Matters**’ to discuss the criticality of climate security as an emerging topic for peace and development practitioners.



Join us!

15 December 2020 at 8:30am EST

Webinar: Why climate security matters?

From the PDA Fellowship: on Climate-related security risks and sustaining peace

The UNDP Oslo Governance Centre and Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme are pleased to invite you to this webinar to discuss the latest global trends around the critical issue of ‘climate security’ and why it matters for sustaining peace.

#ClimateSecurityNexus

SDG 16: Advancing Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies



Highlights:

- | Supported the upgrading of three UNDP custodian indicators from Tier III to Tier II with the adoption of globally agreed methodology for data collection on the indicators.
- | Supported the Praia City Group in producing the [Handbook on Governance Statistics](#) and [Governance Statistics in the COVID-19 Era: A Praia City Group Guidance Note](#).
- | Finalized the UNDP-UNODC-OHCHR joint [SDG 16 Survey](#) questionnaire for piloting in 2021.
- | Completed the [Stakeholder Engagement](#) publication with UNDESA.
- | Completed a five-week regional training programme with UNODC on [Measuring SDG 16 in Africa](#).

With less than 10 years remaining for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, there is a real risk that many of the goals and targets of the Agenda will not be met – among these SDG 16, which aims for more peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.² With support from Norway and the United Kingdom, OGC has continued to advocate for and support measurement, reporting, and implementation on SDG 16.

OGC focuses on **three main areas** related to SDG 16. These include:

- | Support to **data and measurement** through UNDP's role as custodian for four SDG 16 indicators and in facilitating the development of standards on governance statistics;
- | **Research and knowledge sharing** through partnerships on the themes of peace, justice, and inclusion and their interlinkages across the 2030 Agenda; and
- | **Advocacy and outreach** through the SDG 16 Hub, SDG 16 Info Digests, and specific communication and social media campaigns.

The following sections provide additional information on OGC's global work on SDG 16 in 2020.

Data and Measurement

UNDP is custodian for four SDG 16 indicators, and OGC is responsible for supporting the development of the methodology and collection of data on these indicators. In 2020, OGC successfully led the upgrading of three³ of **UNDP's custodian indicators** from Tier III to Tier II with the adoption of globally agreed methodology for data collection. In addition, OGC is now co-custodian with UNODC and OECD for a new indicator on access to dispute resolution mechanisms,⁴ which was adopted as part of the Comprehensive Review of the SDG indicator framework in 2020. The globally approved methodology will now form the basis upon which countries collect and report data to measure progress on areas related to 'satisfaction with public services', 'inclusive and responsive decision-making processes', 'representation and participation in public service and judiciary', and 'access to dispute resolution mechanisms'. These will be available for reporting for the first time in 2021.

² According to the UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020, "Conflict, insecurity, weak institutions and limited access to justice remain threats to sustainable development.... The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to amplify and exploit fragilities across the globe."

³ 16.6.2, 16.7.1b and c, 16.7.2.

⁴ 16.3.3.

In an effort to address the data gap facing many of the SDG 16 indicators, OGC made significant progress in 2020 in the development of the [SDG 16 Survey with OHCHR and UNODC](#). The survey covers the thematic issues of governance, access to justice, corruption, violence, discrimination, and trafficking in persons. The survey is designed specifically for national statistics offices (NSOs) to use and aims not only to further data collection on the SDG 16 indicators, but also to contribute to strengthening national statistical capacities and ownership of the data. In 2020, despite delays due to the pandemic, the questionnaire was finalized after an expert consultation and cognitive testing in *Cabo Verde*, *El Salvador*, and *Kenya*. This initial testing has also helped to inform the piloting exercises planned for 2021, including health and safety protocols, adapting to phone and computer-based questionnaires as well as putting in place safeguards due to the sensitivity of some of the themes covered by the survey. **The survey will be piloted in eight countries, and the questionnaire will be available for full implementation by mid-2021.**

As part of its custodian responsibilities for the SDG 16 indicators, OGC continued to **strengthen national capacities to collect and report data on SDG 16**. This included a [joint webinar in December 2020 with the Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) on measuring representation in the parliaments, judiciary, and public service, related to indicator



SDG 16 survey of cognitive testing with COVID-19 protocols: Data entry in Cabo Verde

SDG 16.7.1. Over 100 people heard about country experiences in measuring SDG 16.7.1 from the NSOs of *Palestine*, *Kenya*, *Bangladesh*, and *Norway*. In addition, OGC worked with UNODC to organize a [five-week virtual training programme for NSOs in Africa on measuring SDG 16](#). The training aimed to raise awareness of the SDG 16 indicators and provide an overview on how to measure them. Following the training, there has been strong demand for similar training programmes for francophone countries in Africa and an increase in interest around how to measure SDG 16. For example, the NSO in The Gambia reached out for support related to SDG 16 measurement to inform their upcoming household survey. Similar training programmes are being planned in 2021 in Latin America and the Asia-Pacific region.



Snapshot of online engagement with the UNDP – UNODC joint training series



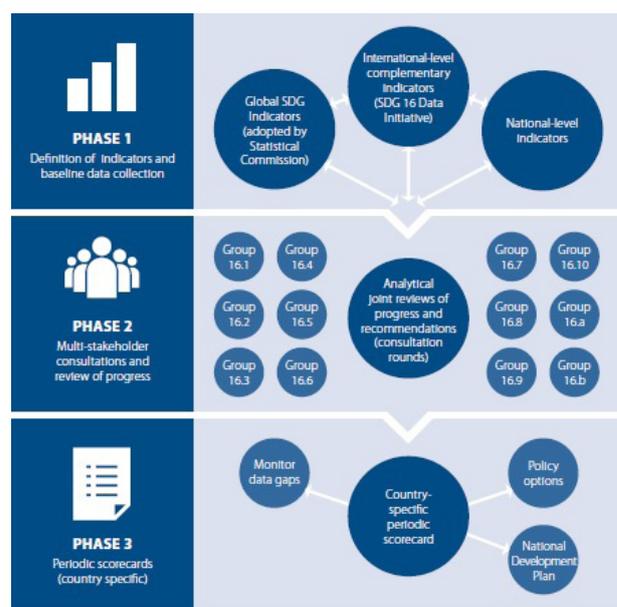
To support countries in monitoring progress on SDG 16, OGC contributed to re-launching the **SDG 16 National Monitoring Initiative** as part of the *Global Alliance for SDG 16+ Reporting*. The initiative uses a **three-step methodology to assist national stakeholders (government and civil society) in monitoring SDG 16 regularly** and promotes peer-learning among the different actors across countries. In 2020, OGC continued to engage with UNDP country offices in 15 pilot countries to identify the support required by national actors for SDG 16 monitoring. **Tunisia, Mexico, and Moldova** submitted proposals for country initiatives developed in partnership between UNDP CO, UN Country Teams, and national actors. In **Mexico**, for instance, the initiative responds to a request from the Ministry of the Interior to monitor how access to justice has been affected by the current pandemic as part of the government’s “National Strategy for Community Resilience”. In **Tunisia**, a frontrunner in SDG 16 monitoring, the initiative builds on previous national SDG 16 reports by the government and helps institutionalize these efforts through a regular and inclusive subnational score card exercise.

In 2020, OGC also responded to requests for support related to SDG 16 from **over 10 UNDP country offices (Kyrgyzstan, Fiji, Togo, Turkmenistan, Eswatini, Bangladesh, Cabo Verde, Jordan, Morocco, Argentina, and Iraq)**. In **Bangladesh**, for example, OGC provided expert advice on how to measure SDG 16.7.1 on

representation in public institutions, enabling the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics to be better positioned to report on the indicator in 2021. In **Kyrgyzstan**, OGC supported a workshop with the government on drafting the SDG 16 chapter for the country’s first Voluntary National Review, which was presented at the 2020 High-Level Political Forum.

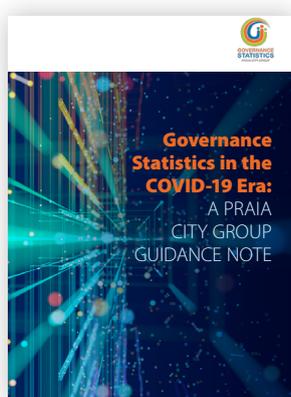
In order to respond to the increased interest and demand for support from UNDP’s staff on SDG 16, OGC organized a **three-part SDG 16 webinar series** (October and November) with the Governance CoP. The series highlighted resources and country experiences on measurement, monitoring, reporting, and programming and implementation related to SDG 16. It featured experiences from 10 country offices enabling peer-to-peer knowledge sharing, which stepped up following the webinar series. **Armenia** and **Tunisia**, for example, have shared their experiences with **Colombia** on SDG 16 data innovation and on developing real-time data to measure progress on SDGs.

OGC championed governance statistics more broadly, including through the **Praia Group on Governance Statistics**, a city group created at the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) in 2015 to ‘contribute to establishing international standards and methods for the compilation of



National processes for monitoring SDG16

statistics on the major dimensions of governance'. OGC continues to be a strong champion of the Praia Group, and in 2020 supported the Praia Group to launch its seminal [Handbook on Governance Statistics](#) at the 51st UN Statistical Commission. This was a culmination of several years of collaboration between NSOs, international organizations, and civil society organizations, and outlines the foundation for the development of international statistical guidance and standards in all areas of governance statistics. It focuses on eight dimensions of governance, including non-discrimination and equality, participation, openness, access to and quality justice, responsiveness, absence of corruption, trust, and safety and security.



Building on the handbook, and recognizing the need for NSO guidance in COVID-19 times, OGC also supported the Praia Group to produce a Guidance Note on [Governance Statistics in the COVID-19 Era](#). This is the first

global guidance on governance statistics during COVID-19 that aims to help data producers compile governance data during such a crisis and to enable policymakers, civil society, media, and other stakeholders to explore what governance data is needed and how to demand it.

Throughout 2020, OGC actively supported the Praia Group to engage with its membership and to develop its plan of work for its new mandate up to 2025, which was presented at the Group's **3rd Annual Membership** meeting in November 2020.

Research and knowledge sharing

While SDG 16 is often called an 'enabling goal', i.e. essential to achieve all other SDGs, the [Global Sustainable Development Report 2019](#) along with other recent studies show that, so far, surprisingly little literature exists on the interaction of SDG 16 with other goals. To help fill this knowledge gap and identify key implications for policy and programming, OGC started research

“Our continued cooperation with the Oslo Governance Centre throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has made it possible for the Praia Group to step in at a critical time for the field of governance statistics, and to provide NSOs with practical advice on how to meet the governance information needs most likely to arise during this crisis. This was highly appreciated by our members.”

– Dr. Osvaldo Borges, Chair of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics

partnerships with two renowned think tanks, the German Development Institute (GDI / DIE) and Australia's Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), using a two-pronged qualitative/quantitative approach. The research looks particularly at the interconnectedness of SDG 16 with other SDG indicators, and the qualitative research will delve deeper into the connections between SDG 16 and SDG 10 on Inequality and SDG 1 on Poverty. In 2021, an advisory group will review the findings from both research strands, and initial results will be shared at the 2021 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July.

To explore what 'SDG 16 interlinkages' means in practice, OGC is advising the **Blue Resilience Project**, which is part of Norway's [Blue Justice Initiative](#) on tackling organized crime in the fisheries sector – i.e. an issue at the intersection between **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Inclusion)** and **SDG 14 (Life Below Water)**. Efforts to tackle fisheries crime are often led by fisheries or law enforcement specialists but do not examine

underlying governance issues. As a first step, empirical research was undertaken to understand **how governance bottlenecks impact the effective tackling of fisheries crime**, which included interviews with practitioners from 16 countries. The findings were presented at Norway’s [Blue Justice Conference](#) in December 2020. In 2021, OGC will build on this research to help develop a learning package especially for countries that have signed the Norway-led Copenhagen Declaration on fisheries crime. Institutionally, the project is a good example of effective collaboration across UNDP: managed by UNDP’s Nordic Representation Office, advised by OGC, while liaising with UNDP’s Oceans Team (on environmental questions) and the SDG Integration Team (on methodological questions, e.g. on a systems approach).



Effective monitoring, reporting, and follow-up on the SDGs, including SDG 16, requires meaningful **stakeholder engagement**, but the quality of this engagement varies in many such practices. The COVID-19

pandemic has added to the challenge, with fewer resources available and less attention to engaging stakeholders, despite the need for dialogue to guide government action and maintain social cohesion. Against this background, OGC co-developed a tool with UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) for governments,

stakeholders, and development partners alike (and ideally jointly) to examine and improve the quality of stakeholder engagement practices at different stages of the 2030 Agenda cycle. The tool, [WHAT IS A 'GOOD PRACTICE'? A framework to analyse the Quality of Stakeholder Engagement in implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda](#), consists of a user-friendly matrix around key principles derived from SDG 16, such as inclusion, accountability, and participation. When reviewing and testing the tool, governmental and non-governmental practitioners from across countries emphasized that the tool fills a critical gap, and they flagged interest in using it immediately, for example in preparing for the 2021 Voluntary National Reviews.

Advocacy and outreach

Realizing the increased information needs of practitioners, OGC significantly upgraded the [SDG 16 Hub](#), which was first launched in 2018, as a one-stop branding-neutral online resource portal developed and led by UNDP in response to practitioner demand. Since then it has been hosting structured and centralized knowledge and information on SDG 16 and assisting practitioners to collaborate meaningfully on this global Goal. To date the Hub hosts:

- ┆ 900+ resources
- ┆ 12 functional groups
- ┆ 1100+ registered users

Over the last year, engagement on the Hub has significantly grown thanks to the participation of a vast number of users who actively share content, comments, posts, and events. The number of



registered users has risen by 42% in 2020. Going forward, the Hub will also host exciting new conversations on SDG 16 (leading up to the HLPF 2021) and a compendium of **SDG 16 data innovation practices and experiences** for

collecting, analysing, and disseminating SDG 16 data. It will also feature an interactive map and host online space to enable access to information and to facilitate the sharing of knowledge on SDG 16 data innovation practices.

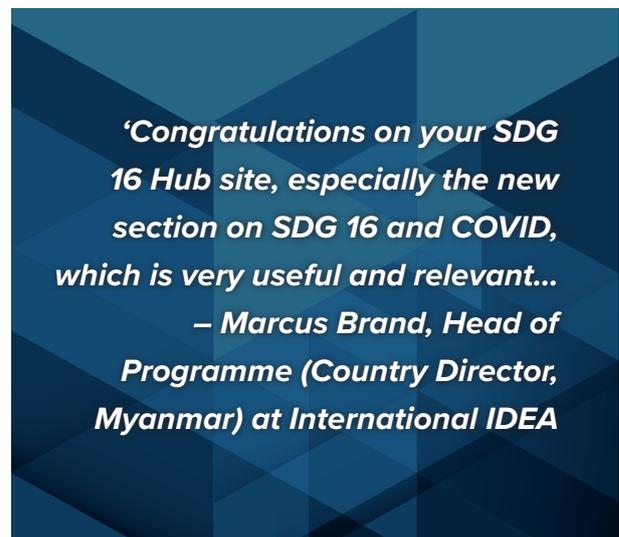


COVID-19 dashboard on the SDG 16 Hub 2.0: On the SDG 16 Hub 2.0, COVID-19 and SDG 16 resources are available on a unique, **dedicated online dashboard**. This has been developed to meet the information needs of people at large as well as a wide target audience of governance practitioners, through curated resources, articles, blogs, articles, guidance notes, and other knowledge products.

16-related resources such as publications, articles, blogs, tools, and platforms to the wider community of practitioners. 2020 saw the production of editions 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 of the Digests. All the past editions are available on the **SDG16 Hub Digest corner**.



OGC regularly produces the **SDG 16 Info Digests**, which provide updates on SDG 16-related events and activities, both inside and outside the UN System. It also brings information about SDG





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